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PSC 540.01: American Core Readings

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTANA
Department of Political Science

PSc 540 American Core Readings
Spring 2002
Dr. Laslovich

Office: LA 354
Hrs: M 11-12:00, TR 10-11:00
and by app't (4418)

Course Requirements - Students will be evaluated upon the following basis:

Seminar Participation 50%
Writing Assignments 50%

Writing Assignments

Each student will be assigned one volume for each seminar topic upon which they will prepare a one-page overview for distribution to fellow students and the instructor. The overview should summarize the author's key points. Weekly seminars will consist of brief presentations of their assigned readings and group discussion of themes and contrasting approaches to the subject matter.

Following the seminar, students will submit a five-page critical essay expanding upon the major themes (limited to one or two) addressed in their assigned volume in light of the seminar discussion. Essays are due one week after each seminar.

Seminar Dates and Readings - readings will be assigned by the instructor.

Introduction – Jan. 28

Federalism - Feb. 4

Bennett, Walter H. American Theories of Federalism. Alabama: University of Alabama Press, 1966.

Elazar, Daniel. American Federalism: A View From the States. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell, 1966.

Grodzins, Morton. A Nation of States: Essays on the American Federal System. Chicago: Rand McNally, 1974.

Riker, William H. Federalism: Origin, Operation, Significance. Boston: Boston: Little Brown, 1964.

Oates, Wallace E. The Political Economy of Fiscal Federalism. Lexington, Mass.: D.C. Heath, 1977.

Wheare, K.C. Federal Government. London: Oxford University Press, 1946, 1964.

Political Parties - Feb. 11 and 18

Burns, James M. The Deadlock of Democracy: Four-Party Politics in America. 1963.

Crotty, William J. and Gary C. Jacobson. American Parties in Decline. 1980.

Key, V.O.. Southern Politics in State and Nation. New York: A.A. Knopf, 1949.

Polsby, Nelson. Consequences of Policy Reform. New York: Oxford University Press, 1983.

Sabato, Larry J. The Party's Just Begun: Shaping Political Parties for America's Future. Glenview, Illinois: Scott, Foresman, 1988.

Schattschneider, E.E. Party Government. New York: Farrar and Rinehart, 1942.

Wattenberg, Martin. The Decline of American Political Parties, 1952-1980. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1984.

Elections – Feb. 25

Campbell, Angus, Philip E. Converse, Warren Miller, and Donald E. Stokes. The American Voter. New York: Wiley, 1960.

Burnham, Walter Dean. Critical Elections and the Mainsprings of American Politics. New York: W.W. Norton, 1970.

Key, Jr., V.O. The Responsible Electorate: Rationality in Presidential Voting, 1936-1960. New York: Harvard University Press, 1966.

Lazarsfeld, Paul F., Bernard Berelson, and Hazel Gaudet. The People's Choice: How the Voter Makes Up His Mind in a Presidential Election. New York: Duell, Sloan and Pearce, 1944.

Piven, Frances Fox and Richard A. Cloward. Why Americans Don't Vote. New York: Pantheon Books, 1988.

Rae, Douglas. The Political Consequences of Electoral Laws. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1967.

Teixeira, Ruy A. The Disappearing American Voter. Washington, D.C.: The Brookings Institution, 1992.

Interest Groups - March 4

Berry, Jeffrey M. The Interest Group Society. Glenview, Illinois: Scott, Foresman, 1989.

Dahl, Robert, Who Governs? Democracy and Power in an American City. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1961.

Fiorina, Morris. The Decline of Collective Responsibility in American Politics. 1980.

Madison, James. "Federalist Paper," Number 10.

McConnell, Grant. Private Power and American Democracy. 1966.

Olson, Mancur, Jr. The Logic of Collective Action: Public Goods and the Theory of Groups. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1965.

Ranney, Austin, Curing the Mischiefs of Factions. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1975.

Schattschneider, E.E., The Semisovereign People: A Realist's View of Democracy in America. New York: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1960.

Truman, David, The Governmental Process, Political Interests and Public Opinion. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1951.

Executive Branch - March 11 and March 27

Cronin, Thomas E. The State of the Presidency. Boston: Little, Brown, 1980.

Herring, Pendleton. Presidential Leadership. 1940.

Neustadt, Richard. Presidential Power and The Modern Presidents. New York: The Free Press, 1960 or other edition.

Reedy, George E. The Twilight of the Presidency. New York: World Publication, 1970.

Rossiter, Clinton. The American Presidency. rev. ed. New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1960.

Schlesinger, Arthur M. Jr. The Imperial Presidency. 1973.

Seligman, Lester G. and Cary R. Covington. The Coalitional Presidency. Chicago: The Dorsey Press, 1989.

Congress - April 3 and 10

Arnold, R. Douglas. The Logic of Congressional Action. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1990.

Davidson, Roger H. and Walter J. Oleszek. Congress Against Itself. 1977.

Fenno, Richard, Jr. Congressmen in Committees. Boston: Little, Brown, 1973.

_____, Home Style, House Members in Their Districts. Boston: Little Brown, 1978.

Fiorina, Morris P., Congress: The Keystone of the Washington Establishment. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1977.

MacNeil, Neil. Forge of Democracy: The House of Representatives. New York: D. McKay, 1983.

Mayhew, David, Congress: The Electoral Connection. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1974.

Wilson, Woodrow. Congressional Government. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin, 1889.

The Judiciary - April 17 and 24

Bickel, Alexander M. The Least Dangerous Branch: The Supreme Court at the Bar of Politics. 1962.

Bork, Robert H. The Tempting of America: The Political Seduction of the Law. 1990.

Choper, Jesse H. Judicial Review and the National Political Process. 1980.

Murphy, Water E. Elements of Judicial Strategy. 1964.

O'Brien, David M. Storm Center: A Study in Judicial Politics and Values, (1937-1947). 1947.

Peltason, Jack W. Fifty-Eight Lonely Men, Southern Federal Judges and School Desegregation. 1961.

Shapiro, Martin M. Who Guards the Guardians? 1988.

Tribe, Laurence, H. God Save This Honorable Court. (1985).

Bureaucracy - May 1

Aberbach, Joel D., Robert D. Putnam, and Bert A. Rockman. Bureaucrats And Politicians in Western Democracies. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1981.

Allison, Graham T. Essence of Decision. Boston: Little, Brown, 1971.

Benveniste, G. The Politics of Expertise. Berkeley and London: The Glendessary Press and Croom Helm, 1972.

Downs, Anthony Inside Bureaucracy. Boston: Little, Brown, 1967.

Goodsell, Charles T. The Case For Bureaucracy. 2nd edition. Chatham, N.J.: Chatham House, 1985.

Hyneman, C.S. Bureaucracy in a Democracy. New York: Harper and Row, 1950.

Patterson, Jr., Bradley H. The Ring of Power: The White House Staff and Its Expanding Role in Government. 1988.

Media and Politics – May 8

TBA